

In the Specification, pages 8, third paragraph, lines 14 - 30), please substitute the following amended paragraph:

B2
mmw
6/2/03
mmw

A DNA plasmid designated as BL21/DE3(8,9 PST) containing the neuS gene from K92, obtained above, has been deposited with American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) on or before August 10, 1999 and has been assigned the ATCC accession number PTA-594. Briefly, the DNA (neuS) was originated from *Escherichia coli* K92 strain by PCR to clone the α 2,8/2,9 polysialyltransferase. The DNA was subcloned in pRSET vector (Invitrogen) and the resultant plasmid DNA (8,9 PST) was transformed into *Escherichia coli* GL21(DE3). This deposit was made under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purpose of Patent Procedure and the Regulations thereunder (Budapest Treaty). This assures maintenance of a viable plasmid for 30 years from the date of each deposit. The plasmid will be made available by ATCC under the terms of the Budapest Treaty which assures permanent and unrestricted availability of the progeny of the plasmid to the public upon issuance of the pertinent U.S. patent or upon laying open to the public of any U.S. or foreign patent application, whichever comes first, and assures availability of the progeny to one determined by the U.S. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to be entitled thereto according to 35 U.S.C. §122 and the Commissioner's rules pursuant thereto (including 37 CFR §1.14 with particular reference to 886 OG 638). The assignee of the present application has agreed that if the plasmid deposit should die or be lost or destroyed when cultivated under suitable conditions, it will be promptly replaced on notification with a viable specimen of the same plasmid. Availability of the deposit is not to be construed as a license to practice the invention in contravention of the rights granted under the authority of any government in accordance with its patent laws.